

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 45-48, 57-60, 68-70, 75-79, 94-96, 98, 100-105, 114-115 and 139-158 are now pending in the present application. Claims 45 and 57 are independent. Claims 57 and 59 have been amended.

Presently two independent claims and forty eight claims are pending. Applicants previously paid for twelve independent claims and seventy eight total claims (see the transmittal of the Amendment filed July 12, 2006). Therefore, no excess claim fees are due.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action mailed August 27, 2007, the Examiner indicated that claims 45-48, 68-70, 75-79, 94-96, 98, 100-105, 114, 115 and 139-158 were allowed and that claim 59 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In order to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicants have included some, but not all, of the limitations of allowable claim 59 into independent claim 57. Claim 57 has been amended to recite that each wire is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to a polymer melt used to form the elongate polymeric tube. This recitation is consistent with the phrasing found in allowed independent claim 45. Claim 59 has been amended to further define that the coating composition includes polytetrafluoroethylene.

This application should now be in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 57, 58 and 60 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sherlock (U.S. Patent 3,367,370). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acquiescing to the rejection, but to expedite examination of this application, limitations from allowable claim 59 have been incorporated into independent claim 57.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

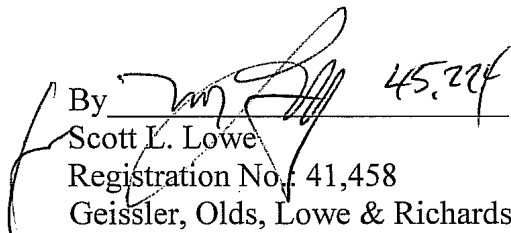
In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 621-7140 in the Washington, D.C. area.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3828 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  45.224

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